

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-13 and 15 are pending in the application. Claims 6, 7, 14 and 16-37 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-13 and 15 stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, 9-13 and 15 under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 9-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,660,908 to Kelman in view of USPN 6,497,950 to Haile.

The Office states that Kelman et al. disclose a liner/insulator comprising a base layer of fibrous material and a plurality of ribs of fibrous material thermally bonded to the base layer.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Kelman et al. teach "reverse ribs" or corrugations 18 (col. 2, lines 40-41). Nowhere do Kelman et al. teach or suggest that **the ribs are thermally bonded to the base layer**, as Applicants claim. Kelman et al. teaches that **full-density extruded PET 27** fills each corrugation channel and is heat-bonded to the low-melt fibers in the batt 12 (col. 2, lines 62-65). See comparison figures below.

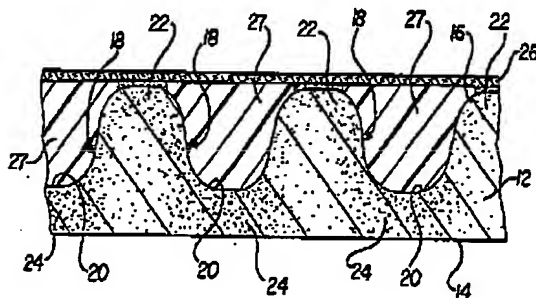


Fig. 2 - U.S. 5,660,908 - Kelman et al.

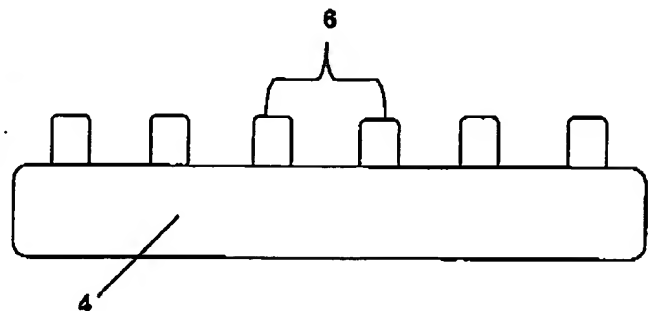


Fig. 1 - U.S. 10/789,144

Attorney Docket No. 25353A

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action does not meet the criteria for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. **Finally, the applied reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.** (MPEP §2143).

Applicants respectfully submit that Kelman et al. fails to teach or suggest all of Applicants claim limitations, as such a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not be established.

Claims 3, 5, 9-13 and 15 ultimately depend from claim 1 and contain the limitations thereof. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 9-13 and 15 as being unpatentable as being unpatentable over USPN 5,660,908 to Kelman in view of USPN 6,497,950 to Haile be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,660,908 to Kelman et al. as applied to claims 1, 3, 5, 9-13 and 15 above, and further in view of USPN 5,892,197 to Patrick.

As discussed above, with regard to Kelman et al., Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Claims 4 and 8 ultimately depend from claim 1 and contain the limitations thereof. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 4 and 8 as being unpatentable over USPN 5,660,908 to Kelman et al. as applied to claims 1, 3, 5, 9-13 and 15 above, and further in view of USPN 5,892,197 to Patrick be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, 8-13 and 15 at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent at (740) 321-7213 if any unresolved matters remain.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicant authorizes any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Maria C. Gasaway
Reg. No. 51,721

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Owens Corning
2790 Columbus Road, Bldg. 11-7
Granville, OH 43023
(740) 321-7213